

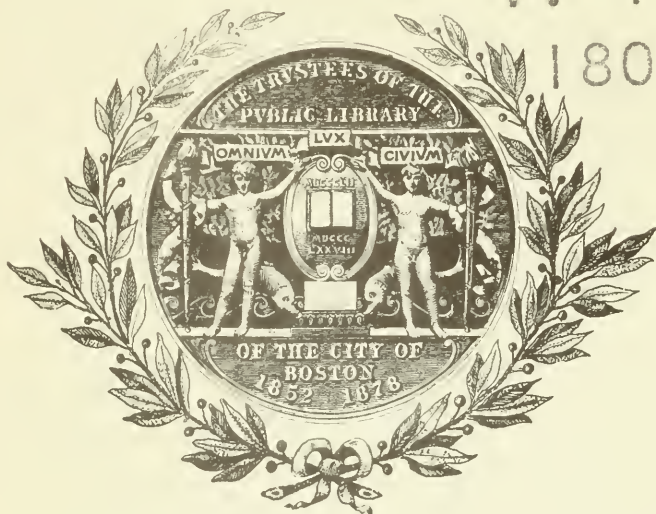


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SCHOOL REPORT.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CHARLESTOWN FREE SCHOOLS, in compliance with a law of the Commonwealth, respectfully submit the following as their

ANNUAL REPORT.

The statistics of the Schools, at the last examination, were as follows: number of Schools 21; teachers and assistant 39; salaries \$11,740; scholars 2416; average attendance 1986.

There have been no alterations in the School System of the town during the past year. The Warren School House, partially destroyed by fire, has been thoroughly repaired. This beautiful and substantial building is now in better condition than it was originally.—The finish of the interior is better; the accommodations for the Primary Schools are increased and the building is better ventilated. The expense of repairs was \$4030.

The following table gives the statistics of these Schools at the date of the last examinations.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

| <i>Number.</i> | <i>SITUATION.</i> | <i>TEACHERS.</i> | <i>Whole No.</i> | <i>Average Attendance.</i> | <i>Present at examination.</i> |
|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | B. Hill School House, | Melvina B. Skilton, | 89 | 64 | 77 |
| 2 | Maine Street, | Ellen W. Whittemore, | 82 | 64 | 62 |
| 3 | Warren School House, | Martha Chandler, | 77 | 65 | 65 |
| 4 | Elm Street, | Elizabeth Pratt, | 69 | 65 | 55 |
| 5 | Bow Street, | Sarah C. Reynolds, | 59 | 48 | 48 |
| 6 | Bow Street, | Caroline R. Wiley, | 59 | 48 | 58 |
| 7 | Bow Street, | Sarah E. Smith, | 91 | 70 | 71 |
| 8 | Bow Street, | E. D. Moulton, | 60 | 50 | 55 |
| 9 | Common Street, | Elizabeth Eames, | 84 | 65 | 75 |
| 10 | Training Field, | J. S. Putnam, | 78 | 65 | 65 |
| 11 | Town Hill Street, | Maria Peabody, | 80 | 60 | 76 |
| 12 | Boylston Chapel, | Lydia Keith, | 77 | 67 | 66 |
| 13 | Bunker Hill Street, | Susan M. Nichols, | 82 | 70 | 79 |
| 14 | Moulton's Point, | Jane M. Burkess, | 80 | 75 | 76 |
| 15 | Warren School House, | Mary J. Chandler, | 77 | 56 | 72 |
| 16 | Elm Street, | H. M. Austin, | 60 | 53 | 55 |
| 17 | Bunker-Hill Street, | Cynthia Brockett, | 70 | 58 | 53 |

good order, cheerfulness and a fine spirit. In a word—our schools, so far from retrograding or standing still, are improving. They are keeping up with the times, and this is saying a good deal; for if appearances indicate any thing it is, that the community will not rest satisfied until they see these free grammar schools furnishing full opportunities for youth to acquire a thorough English Education, an education that shall fit them for extended usefulness and high self-culture.

Gentlemen from abroad concur with the observation of the committee, in ranking our schools as among the best of the vicinity. That the progress of the scholars, generally, is satisfactory to the citizens, may be inferred from the full attendance to be seen in them. In fact our free schools have been steadily increasing in usefulness and numbers, and thus superseding the necessity for private schools. Five years ago, to meet the growing demand for school-room, the Town voted \$15,000 to build the WARREN SCHOOL HOUSE. This is one of the best in the State and one of the cheapest in the Town; it may be gratifying for the citizens to learn, that friends of education far and near, have visited it and approve of it. When this was built, many doubters thought that it was unwise to provide such spacious rooms, and that it would take ten years, at least, to fill it up. In this they will be disappointed. It is already nearly full and the time has come when additional accommodations are necessary for the increase of scholars, in other schools. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid community.

The Bunker Hill school, in May 1840, after satisfying the draft of the Warren School on the South, still numbered 142 pupils. Two years later, the incorporation of Somerville on the North, took off more scholars. Yet, though this District has been clipped at both sides, and made smaller, the number increased so much that an additional assistant was appointed the past year. It has now on its list 180 scholars, and the rooms have 183 seats. The venerable building that accommodates this school may, for a couple of years, meet the wants of the population in its vicinity; but to say more, would require of the Board to utterly disregard the signs indicated by the neat and commodious dwellings rising on the sides of Bunker Hill. These will soon send forth children, who will claim the *right* to go to a "master's school." The citizens can run out the consequences as well as the Board can.

The WARREN SCHOOL commenced April, 1840, with 275 pupils, taken from the Bunker Hill, Harvard, Winthrop grammar schools, and the Primaries. Even after this general swarming it was remarked there were scholars enough, for profit, left in the old hives. This school now numbers 388, the school rooms have 400 seats. In all probability, after the October examinations, there will be more scholars than seats: but additional seats can be put in so as to accommodate, for some time, the influx of scholars. This school, may be set down as nearly full. We now come to the Harvard school. In April, 1840, this school was left with 240 scholars. When we view the substantial buildings that have been erected within a few years near its central location, it will not appear so strange that there are 323 scholars now on its list as it will to suppose that this number of pupils can be properly accommodated in school-rooms having but 284 seats. It cannot be denied that this school is overflowing with pupils. But another case, worse yet, will be found in the Winthrop

for rejoicing : for an increase of population without an increase of children presenting themselves for instruction, would never be a welcome sign to patriotism. It would indicate indifference on the part of parents to the noblest legacy they can give to their offspring.— Hence to see our schools increase in numbers, as well as in usefulness, ought ever to be a gratifying spectacle. To preserve them from factious partizanship and sectarian zeal should be the aim of the watchful citizen. Whatever else they see fit to economise in, let it be a point of duty with the rich and of right with the poor, to sustain in full vigor the healthy influences of our NOBLE FREE SCHOOLS.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM Jun. *President.*

FREDERICK ROBINSON, *Secretary.*

Charlestown, April, 1844.

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